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Richmond Times-Dispatch

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1916

Beneficiaries of "Pork"

It is amusing to find some of the staunch opponents of preparedness introducing in Congress measures that will obtain for their districts, in the event that their advice on national defense is overruled, large chunks of "preparedness pork." It is amusing, but humiliating, for the fault is not in our stars—or Congressmen—but in ourselves. So long as Senators and Representatives are valued in proportion to their ability to "get their share"—as the euphemistic phrase has it—national legislation must be on a low plane. We are accustomed to put the blame on the legislators, when the larger part of it belongs nearer home. If we laugh, as of course we shall, we should not forget the real authors of this screaming farce.

The Sick Man of Europe has become the scapegoat of Germany and Austria.

Robert Whittier, Jr.

FEW of the men of comparative youth actively engaged in municipal affairs had as strong an influence in public life as Robert Whittier, Jr. Of Scotch descent, he exhibited in a high degree the tenacity and stern determination that mark the Scot, and time and again his unbending attitude on matters of importance, concerning which his clear mind had come to definite conclusions, saved the city from precipitate and unwise action.

During his years of service in the Board of Aldermen and, later, as chairman of the Administrative Board, he not only devised and caused to be executed plans for the betterment of the community in many ways, but he always acted as a conservative and thoughtful restraining influence on hastily conceived projects. He will be missed from the city government as few men have been missed in this day.

A news item says that motorists are more careful. The pedestrian has to be.

Our Normal Schools

WE have four good normal schools in Virginia. All are well patronized and do excellent work. They have received generous treatment at the hands of the Legislature, and, like many other departments, they ask for increased appropriations. This is natural enough. All beneficiaries of the State ask for larger appropriations than they expect to receive, on the principle that the more you ask for the more you are likely to get. It is very difficult for busy legislative committees to sift these demands and ascertain their reasonableness. Institutions should not be stinted, and at the same time there is no margin in the treasury for lavishness.

This matter illustrates anew the benefits of a budget. The actual needs of each State institution should be carefully ascertained in advance of the meeting of the Legislature, that recommendations might be made accordingly. This would assure justice to a degree impossible under the present haphazard method of scaling down the demands of the various departments within the State's resources at a joint meeting of the two Committees of Finance in the closing hours of the session.

Lady Aberdeen announces that castles in Ireland are now in the market at cut rates. Castles in Spain remain wabbly, as heretofore.

What Is in Newspapers

A VALUABLE investigation of the contents of newspapers has been published in School and Society. The investigator examined 138 leading newspapers, chief among them The Times-Dispatch and the New York Times. Trial issues were taken from time to time and the relative amount of space assigned to various kinds of matter was measured. The results are distinctly interesting. Most space was given to the European war, least to art. The second strongest interest was sports, and then in order came government, business, finance, crime, education, deaths and births.

The investigation is encouraging. Fifty years ago probably a larger relative amount of space in journals was devoted to more or less intellectual topics, but fifty years ago the number of newspaper readers was small compared to the present. When it is considered that almost everybody reads some paper, and that the newspapers, therefore, reflect the reading tastes of the whole community, it is evident that the standard of intelligence is high. When millions of people devote time to reading of war, government, business, finance and politics, a sound public opinion is likely to result.

The whole Roumanian army is crazy for war.—Correspondence London Mail. Well, there is plenty of it in Europe. Why don't the Roumanians get sane?

Government and Shipping

IF experience can demonstrate anything, the wisdom of the efforts made by President Wilson at the last session of Congress to re-establish the American merchant marine has had abundant vindication. The government shipping bill, introduced yesterday, meets a vital need.

The wharves of Atlantic ports are piled high with merchandise, destined for foreign lands, for which no cargo space can be obtained. Ocean freight rates are from 200 to 700 or 800 per cent higher than they were before the war. Our trade with South

America is throttled by the lack of bottoms in which to move it. Private enterprise, with the best will in the world and every financial temptation to enter the field, has proved incompetent to meet the situation.

The Times-Dispatch opposes government ownership in nine cases out of ten, but in the tenth case it is justified amply. The measure sponsored by Representative Alexander and backed by the administration makes government ownership a last resort, which is proper. Should other means fail, however, the government can step in. That also is proper—good political economy, good politics and good sense.

Villa's staff officer has arrived in El Paso with a message to the American people that Villa wishes to capture the bandits who killed Americans. If the staff officer will tell the people of this country where his chief can be captured, it will be of more interest than any desire Villa has about the capture of his killero.

New England's View of Brandeis

IN the presence of all the foolish vapors and mendacious whisperings that President Wilson's latest appointment to the bench of the United States Supreme Court has inspired, it is interesting and valuable to read what one of the really great newspapers of this country, whose opportunity to observe and capacity to weigh and value the evidence have both been exceptional, says of Louis D. Brandeis.

Nobody would think of the Springfield Republican as a radical publication. Its attitude toward public men and public questions is that of the intelligent conservative, willing to forsake the old and the tried only when what is proposed is sound, helpful and true. Perfectly independent in politics, free from suspicion of improper influence, published in an old and rather Tory New England city, as sound in scholarship as in ethics, it is universally regarded as one of the sanest, cleanest and best exponents of American journalism. And this is what it says:

There are few American judges to-day who surpass Mr. Brandeis in intellectual grasp, and certainly the lawyers who have had him to contend with, whether in cross-examination or in argument, in railroad and interstate commerce cases, in such a legal conflict as that over the Oregon minimum-wage law, or in such a congressional investigation as that of the Ballinger-Pinchot inquiry, have a wholesome respect for his powers. Mr. Hughes's strictly professional qualifications for the bench were not superior to those of Mr. Brandeis when President Taft appointed him to the United States Supreme Court.

But the Republican goes even further. Admitting, as every one must admit, that if any of the nasty imputations with which newspapers of a certain type have been filled are found to have a solid foundation, the confirmation of Mr. Brandeis would become impossible, this New England journal finds special reasons, in the absence of such proof, for approving the President's selection. It dismisses as idle the suggestion that a conspicuous advocate, whose life has been a struggle, should be barred from a place on the Supreme Bench. It recalls that "John Marshall became our foremost Chief Justice after years of bitter political strife and intense partisan warfare with Thomas Jefferson."

It finds merit rather than demerit in the circumstance that Mr. Brandeis has won a remarkable place "in the esteem and admiration of the wage-earning people, the labor unions and the radical elements of this country." The Republican concludes that "a man of his type on the bench of the highest court would tend to make every trade-unionist, every Socialist, every anarchist, even, more loyal to our government and to American institutions; and that not because Mr. Brandeis is a trade-unionist, a Socialist or an anarchist, but because there are many thousands of citizens who believe that the court should contain members who can see life from their point of view and in whose fidelity to democracy they entertain no shadow of doubt."

For our part, we feel no question that President Wilson had in mind, when he named Mr. Brandeis, this very contribution to the viewpoint of the Supreme Court.

Now that the New York police have been instructed to take a peep at the Russian ballet that has just arrived, there are not enough seats in the Metropolitan Opera House for the crowd, and standing room is selling higher than gasoline.

Novels Come Next

CHILDHOOD is a happy state simply because ignorance is bliss. Grown-ups are confronted by so many dangers that card indexes are necessary; hardly a day passes but that some new peril is revealed to our shudders. In the good old days, before the invention of germs, life may have been shorter, but it was less depressing; we ate our pie without modern misgivings. A hundred years ago or even less toddlers were even considered good for the health.

The latest danger threatening an appalled world has been brought to light by a convention of librarians in California. These wise folk have discovered that "many a marriage that otherwise would have been happy is wrecked on the shoals of idealism, falsely created by 'mushy' novels"; and, furthermore, that novel reading weakens the minds of girls. This is a terrible indictment. It makes plain the reason for the increasing record of divorce and the cause of the modern styles affected by women. To our untutored senses, novels seem rather tame and innocuous, but librarians ought to know. The revelation of the evils of the novel must appeal to all altruistic minds. We may expect to see an association arising to combat the ravages of fiction on matrimony and the intellects of girls.

Germany and Austria having denied that the sinking of the Persia last December was done by their submarines, "the buck is passed" to Turkey. "Let George do it," is an old rag, but Germany and Austria are glad to play it with Turkey. Secretary Lansing will have plenty of time to go fishing before Turkey gives him any information on this affair or any other.

Regretting the retirement of Mr. Sothern, the New York World says he is the undoubted leader of the American stage. Everybody in this country who is interested in the drama will hope that the time will come, again, when an American actor will be the leader of the American stage as were Booth and Barrett.

The Boston Transcript says that a Congressman would advocate the establishment of a glue factory next door to his own house if he could get the government to make the appropriation. Not unless the Congressman could furnish the glue.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Good Gracious!

[Colors never used before in men's suits—dainty lavenders and pinks and bright greens—do become fashionable at Palm Beach. It is stated here on good authority.—News note from Palm Beach.]

When Clarence, garbed in green or pink, Appears upon the beach, Each gentle heart in joy will sink, Red lips let out a screech.

For Clarence is as sweet a sight As mortals e'er have seen, But think of him when he's bedight In shades of mauve and green:

Oh, think of him incased in pink, Cerise or lavender! Some coarse-grained men will take to drink, Their sorrows to enter.

And when he and his pals, arrayed In colors like his own, Are all upon the beach displayed, A loud and solemn groan

Will echo through the troubled land; Will fill each heart with woe— For who could view that gaudy band And no emotion show?

Guido Explains. "From what you tell me, I assume that your wife is a regular scold," said Newcomer to the Guide of Capitol Square.

"Yes," replied Guido. "She scolds because she has to do her housework and scolds because she has to live with me. She's regular, all right. Alas the same!"

Royal Nicknames. Ethelbert II. of Scotland was the Unready King. The Good Emperors of Rome were Narva, Trojan, Antonius Pius and Marcus Aurelius. George III. of England was the Farmer King; George IV. was Gentleman George.

Won Her on a Bluff. "I love your daughter," "Is that why you want to marry her?" "Yes." "And you think you can support her on that?" "Yes, if you and her mother will keep away from us."

The Penitent Says: "Don't pay too much attention when somebody tells you the country has reached the crisis of its destinies. It has been doing that regularly every year since it achieved its independence."

It Was Not Play. "Johnny," said the stern parent, "didn't I tell you that you were not to play with that bad little Binks boy?"

"Well, I wasn't playing with him," rejoined Johnny. "If you just go and take a squirt at his lamp, you'll see I was tending strictly to business."

Potent Arguments. "Do you agree with your adversary quickly?" asked the man from back home. "That depends," replied Congressman Hammett, "on whether he happens to have preserved any of my old letters."

The One Thing Needful. Grubbs—I seems to me that in the matter of national defense reason and logic are all on the side of the advocates of preparedness.

Stubbs—Oh, of course. All they really need now is the votes.

A Problem of Distance. Ding—Why is the depot so far from your town? Dong—I think it was done to accommodate the railroad company. If the depot was nearer the town, the trains wouldn't stop.

Naturally Enough. "I suppose the men who know Miss Sweetthing well are foolish about her," said the mere man.

"Of course they are," replied Miss Sweetthing's dearest friend. "You see, folly is always catching."

The Final Test. "They tell me Jinks is a great fisherman." "Indeed he is! Why, I suppose that man has to do less real lying than any other member of the club."

Shaggy Says: "The days are growing longer at both ends, but the latter end is not long enough for the rounder who stays out so late that he is behind when the day starts."

A True Sport. He—You are the first and only girl I have ever loved. She—Then you had better move around and get some experience. I wouldn't feel right about negotiating an engagement with a perfect novice at the game.

Start of Some Proverbs. "On the state of repentance" in front of a pulpit in Scotland sat a person under censure during service—standing up afterward for public rebuke.

"To eat humble pie" originated in the fact that during feudal days the umbles—inferior parts of deer—were baked in pies for poor retainers.

Shed and Shake. Oh, shed a tear For Thomas Teep. He's married, and Talks in his sleep. —Cincinnati Enquirer.

And give a hand To Samuel Sweet; He's got a wife Who has cold feet.

Chats With Virginia Editors

The Halifax Gazette thinks wonders will never cease, since "it will make the city of Washington 'drastically dry' has been introduced by the Congressman from our own home town in Kentucky." The question is, How did the Congressman vote in the Kentucky home town?

"Throwing out commissioners from the prohibition bill," says the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch, "looks like dumping the cargo to save the ship. Time enough to speculate on that after the dumpa gakes place."

"We hope to live to see the day," says the Louisa Virginian, "when the Torrens system of land registration will be put into effect in Virginia, but it will have a hard road to travel over the dead bodies of a multitude of shyster lawyers and in the face of the opposition of some that are not." That is probably the whole truth in a nutshell.

"This is from the Halifax Record-Advertiser: 'Prohibition bills will require all loaded suit cases to be labeled. Imagine the editor of this paper landing at the station, finding a suit case labeled 'Old Rye,' then gives how far he would get before he would be held up.' That editor knows the people of his town—Houghton."

"So long as the British government is satisfied with the sanitary condition of Newport

News," says the Newport News Times-Herald, "we need not worry about the excited minds of the Richmond reporters." Didn't know before that the British flag was flying over the sanitary department of the port of Newport News.

"A colored man was sent to jail for ninety days in Richmond for stealing shrapnel," says the Honolulu World-News, and it adds: "Ambassador Bernstorff ought to protest vigorously." After the ambassador runs afoul of Justice John does with him, he has never been born in Richmond Times-Dispatch. Too bad, then, that One John is not now President.—Tazewell Republican.

"There is an article in the January 20 issue of the Manufacturers' Record," says the West Point News, "telling of the congested condition of the port of New York and showing clearly the need for the development further south of a port which will provide for the great and growing demands of our commerce. The requisites for such a port are many. No mere indentation on the coast will suffice. There are at least six vital questions to be considered in determining the location of such a port, and it is interesting to note these carefully and observe to how great a degree West Point answers all the requirements as no other place does on the entire Atlantic Coast." The News then goes on to discuss the six requisites in great part, and makes a pretty strong case for West Point.

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From the Richmond Dispatch, Feb. 1, 1866.)

Governor and Mrs. Pierpont will give their first public reception at the Governor's Mansion to-night from 8 to 11 o'clock.

The first National Bank yesterday, through its president, handed J. H. C. Haskins, editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch, a check for \$200 to be applied for the objects contemplated by the relief association, of which Mr. Haskins is the president.

The several divisions of the Sons of Temperance of this city have decided to hold public temperance meetings in Richmond once a month.

The agents of the military authorities were again at work yesterday, divesting ex-Confederates of their brass buttons.

The State Senate passed the bill to allow the employment of female clerks in the Register of Land office, and having stuck on an amendment, the House will have to take it up again, although that body defeated the bill a few days ago.

The bill allowing judges of the courts to send criminals who plead insanity to the Lunatic asylum, to be tried when a sane man, passed yesterday. The outcome in the case of Mrs. Kirby suggested this law.

The number of workmen at the Gosport Navy-Yard, Norfolk, has been reduced again, this time to 400. It is evidently the purpose of the government to clean up this yard eventually.

A Washington dispatch says: "It is no longer a secret that the Southern Senators-elect are remaining in Washington at the earnest solicitation of President Johnson, who is desirous of seeing the Southern States more represented in the halls of Congress, and has some hopes yet of bringing such to pass at an early date."

General Johnson has completed his arrangements to enter commercial life in the city of New Orleans.

The First National Bank of Danville will open for business in a few days.

It is now considered quite sure that the United States Senate will not pass the bill for negro suffrage in the District of Columbia, and it is absolutely certain that the President will veto it if it does pass.

In the Senate yesterday Mr. Trumbull called up his resolution that "all persons of African descent born in the United States are hereby declared citizens of the United States, and are entitled to all the rights and privileges to all persons without distinction of race or color." Mr. Sumner, in reply, said: "We have shed enough tears for the negro. It is high time the white men have some consideration."

The Semmes trial, if it ever comes off, can be disposed of in a week, but the government's mission to try him has not yet been appointed.

Mr. Julian offered in the House of Representatives yesterday a resolution that "it is the declared policy of the United States to speedily and permanently demand of the people of the United States in order that traitors may be adequately branded by the nation, traitors made infamous and repetitions of their crimes, as far as possible, be prevented." The resolution went over.

Large Order. A gives B a note, and just before it is due receives a note from C that not only the amount and date is due there, but that A may know whether it is safe to remit? Give promptly. Does not sound like a very good idea to affect the heart? What would be the effect on the climate of the earth if the plane of its orbit and its axis were parallel? If we could get rid of the Philippines, would Japan be less hostile to us?

The bank is under no obligation to give any notice at all. It is the maker's business to keep track of his obligations and meet them at the proper time. Petrograd, with accent on first syllable No. No. No. We do not see any connection between the matters.

Problems. Four problems, the solutions of which might not be given, and the reason that they could require symbols and spacing which our condition does not admit, are sent by mail. It would be a good idea to include postage with problems, unless the editor is sure that the form of solution will be simple enough to be given here.

Killing Dog. Has a man the right to kill a licensed dog just because it goes on his land? MRS. C. No.

Current Editorial Comment

Demanding in the right direction. The Senate has taken a step in the right direction. The report on the Army Posts, mandating from the War Department a full report on the original cost, maintenance and general usefulness of every army post in the country, is a matter of common knowledge in the army that the location of army posts has been determined with a minimum of regard for defensive requirements and with a maximum of consideration for the wishes of members of Congress who have sought to please their constituents. In every country except the United States, army establishments are distributed in accordance with strategic principles. The choice of sites is governed by railway communications, by geographic conditions, by accessibility, by a variety of circumstances having to do with the promotion of the greatest usefulness of the forces to be accommodated. In America the selection of locations for army posts has been carried on to a great extent by logrolling, politicians whose knowledge of the rudiments of military science is nil. Mr. Garrison's report on the question propounded to him by the Senate, and the action for which it may furnish a basis, is a small but a creditable contribution to the needs of the country, but of having that army so distributed that it will be the most quickly carried on to a great extent by logrolling, politicians whose knowledge of the rudiments of military science is nil. Mr. Garrison's report on the question propounded to him by the Senate, and the action for which it may furnish a basis, is a small but a creditable contribution to the needs of the country, but of having that army so distributed that it will be the most quickly carried on to a great extent by logrolling, politicians whose knowledge of the rudiments of military science is nil. 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